

216830US-2-PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
HIROAKI KITANO ET AL : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION  
SERIAL NO: 09/926,724 :  
FILED: DECEMBER 7, 2001 :  
FOR: METHOD FOR PREDICTING THE:  
STRUCTURE OF A GENE  
REGULATOR BINDING SITE AND  
APPARATUS THEREFOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231 .

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) The method for predicting the structure of a gene regulator binding site as described in claim 1, wherein, from the searched parameter sets, microstructures comprising binding sites of the enhancer or promoter, some of the binding sites interacting locally with one another, are predicted as follows:

at portions where binding sites are dense, the microstructures are physically close to one another for interaction therebetween, or they are physically remote from one another but interact with one another closely and functionally, and